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Massive Attack Releases Soviet-Era X-Ray Vinyl for Anti-Censorship Collaboration

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Soviet fans of forbidden Western music used to smuggle records pressed into used X-ray film, a practice that lent them the name "music on bones."

Now, a Western anti-censorship collaboration has revived the practice, with acts like the British trip-hop band Massive Attack putting out unreleased material on X-rays. Anti-Kremlin punk band Pussy Riot and U.S. philosopher Noam Chomsky are also attached to the project, whose proceeds will go to a Dutch-based "unconventional research" charity.

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Just like their Soviet predecessors, the records can only be played 10 to 15 times before the audio disappears.

Massive Attack's contribution includes a cover of Soviet punk rocker Yegor Letov's anti-Soviet anthem "Everything Is Going According to Plan." Performed live with filmmaker Adam Curtis in 2013, the song appeared online six years later last week.

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The public can bid on 10 original copies of the X-ray record, which have been engraved by The Bureau of Lost Culture, a project of London musician Stephen Coates.

An 11th copy will be archived at the University of the Underground charity's so-called "Library of Dangerous Thoughts."

Massive Attack has sold more than 11 million copies of their five studio albums since 1991.

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